

Gene Regulation: Lecture 3b

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Qualitatively Distinct Phenotypes in the Design Space of Biochemical Systems

Outline

- **Challenges in relating genotype to phenotype**
 - Hierarchy of systems
 - Phenotype of molecular systems?
- Hand-crafted constructions of design space
 - Physiological gene circuits
 - Engineered gene circuits
- Generic constructions of design space
 - Proposal based on the power-law formalism
 - Simple pathway
 - Core gene circuit for regulation of λ lysogeny
- Summary

“The problems faced by pre- and post-genomic genetics are ... much the same -- they all involve bridging the chasm between genotype and phenotype.”

-- Sydney Brenner, *Science* **287**: 2173 (2000).

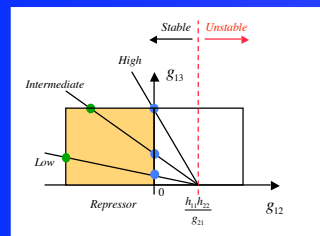
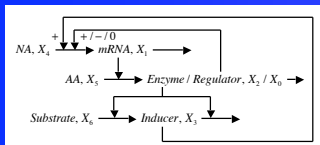
Three Fundamental Unsolved Problems

- Relationship of the genotype to the molecular components of the organism
 - DNA sequence does not tell what *kind* of component is being encoded
 - DNA sequence does not tell the *quantitative* values of the parameters
- Relationship of the molecular components to the system that is the organism
 - Parts (and their relevant parameter values) don't tell us *how they should fit together*
 - Parts don't tell us *which of them constitute the system* in a given environmental context
- Relationship of the molecular system that is the organism to its phenotypic repertoire
 - System (and the quantitative interaction of all its parts) does not tell us *how many qualitatively distinct phenotypes*
 - System does not tell us the *relative fitness of the phenotypes*

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Design Space for Coupling of Expression in Elementary Gene Circuits



Boundary of kinetic orders

$$g_{13}^{\min} = +2 \text{ or } +4 \quad g_{12}^{\min} = +2 \text{ or } +4 \quad g_{12}^{\max} = -2 \text{ or } -4$$

Boundary of instability

$$g_{13} = \frac{h_{13}}{(g_{12} - h_{12})} \left\{ \frac{h_1 h_{22}}{g_{21}} - g_{12} \right\}$$

Line of equivalence

$$g_{13} = \frac{h_{13} L_{24}}{[g_{14} + (g_{12} - h_{12}) L_{24}]} \left\{ \frac{h_1 h_{22}}{g_{21}} - g_{12} \right\}$$

Hlavacek & Savageau, *J. Mol. Biol.* 255: 121 (1996)

Design Principle for the Coupling of Gene Expression in Elementary Circuits

Mode	Capacity	Predicted coupling
Positive	Small	Inverse & uncoupled
Positive	Large	Direct coupled
Negative	Small	Direct coupled
Negative	Large	Inverse & uncoupled

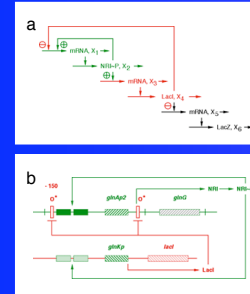
Hlavacek & Savageau, *J. Mol. Biol.* 248: 739 (1995)
Hlavacek & Savageau, *J. Mol. Biol.* 266: 538 (1997)

Outline

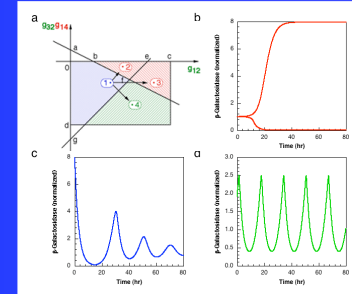
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A Novel Circuit in *E. coli*

Kinetic Model and Genetic Construct

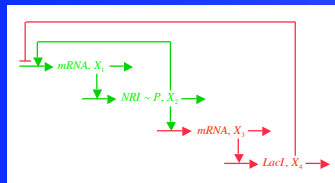


Design Space



Atkinson, et al., Cell 113: 597 (2003).

Synthetic Design Strategies



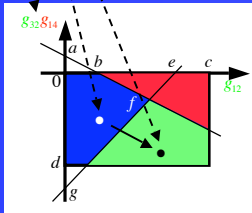
- Match model output to Experimental results
- Location in design space
- Strategy for re-engineering

$$a = (0, 1) \quad b = (1, 0) \quad c = (4, 0) \quad d = (0, -16)$$

$$e = \left(\frac{(\beta_1 + \beta_2)(\beta_1 + \beta_2)}{\beta_1 \beta_2}, 0 \right)$$

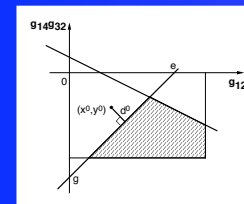
$$f = \left(\frac{\beta_1 \beta_2 \beta_3 + \beta_1 \beta_2 \beta_4 + \beta_1 \beta_3 \beta_4 + \beta_2 \beta_3 \beta_4}{\beta_1 \beta_2 \beta_3 + \beta_1 \beta_2 \beta_4}, \frac{\beta_1 \beta_2 (\beta_1 + \beta_2)}{\beta_1 \beta_2 (\beta_1 + \beta_2)} \right)$$

$$g = \left(0, -\frac{(\beta_1 + \beta_2)(\beta_1 + \beta_2)(\beta_1 + \beta_2)(\beta_1 + \beta_2)(\beta_1 + \beta_2)(\beta_1 + \beta_2)}{\beta_1 \beta_2 \beta_3 (\beta_1 + \beta_2 + \beta_4)} \right)$$



Location and Movement in Design Space

Distance

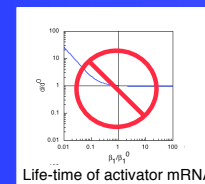


$$d = \sqrt{(x - x')^2 + (y - y')^2}$$

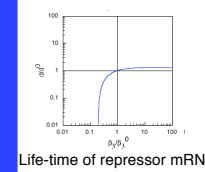
$$x = \frac{(\beta_1 + \beta_2)(\beta_1 + \beta_2)}{\beta_1 \beta_2}$$

$$y = \frac{(\beta_1 + \beta_2)(\beta_1 + \beta_2)(\beta_1 + \beta_2)(\beta_1 + \beta_2)(\beta_1 + \beta_2)(\beta_1 + \beta_2)}{\beta_1 \beta_2 \beta_3 (\beta_1 + \beta_2 + \beta_4)}$$

Parameter Sensitivity



Life-time of activator mRNA



Life-time of repressor mRNA

Characteristics of Design Space

- Dimensional *compression* of parameter space
- All parameters included within aggregate factors
- Geometrical relationships
 - Constraints
 - Physical limits
 - Qualitative dynamics
 - *Qualitatively distinct* functional regimes
- Regions in design space correspond to qualitative distinct phenotypes

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- **Generic constructions of design space**
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Power-Law Formalism

$$\frac{dX_i}{dt} = \sum_{k=1}^r \alpha_{ik} \prod_{j=1}^n X_j^{g_{jk}} - \sum_{k=1}^r \beta_{ik} \prod_{j=1}^n X_j^{h_{jk}}$$

Canonical from Four Different Perspectives

- Fundamental
- Local
- Piece-wise
- Recast

Savageau, *Chaos* 11: 142 (2001)

Generic Construction of Design Space

- Model of the system
 - Mass Action representation
 - Rational function representation
 - Other
- Recast into generalized mass action representation
 - Dominant terms produce a piecewise power-law representation
 - Bound on the number of phenotypic regions
- Local performance in each region described by an s-system
 - Signal amplification factors
 - Robustness
 - Response times
- Global performance described by boundaries
 - Regions with qualitative distinct phenotypes
 - Tolerance
 - Design principles

Savageau, *et al.*, *PNAS* 106: 6435 (2009).

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Two-Step Pathway

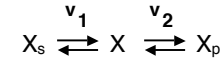
Dimensionless equation

$$\frac{dx}{d\tau} = \frac{x_s}{1 + x_s + x/\kappa} - \frac{\rho x}{1 + x + x_p}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x_s &= X_s / K_s & \kappa &= K_i / K \\ x &= X / K & \rho &= V_{Max,2} / V_{Max,1} \\ x_p &= X_p / K_p & \tau &= (V_{Max,1} / K) t \end{aligned}$$

Steady-state equation

$$\frac{x_s}{1 + x_s + x/\kappa} = \frac{\rho x}{1 + x + x_p}$$



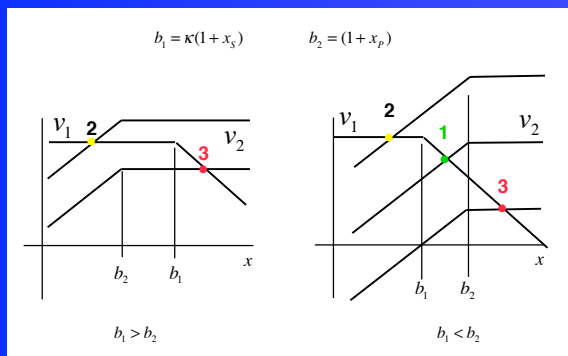
Recast equation

$$\begin{aligned} x_s x_2^{-1} &= \rho x_1 x_3^{-1} \\ x_2 &= (1 + x_s) + x_1 / \kappa \\ x_3 &= (1 + x_p) + x_1 \end{aligned}$$

Bounds on # of regimes

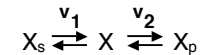
$$T \leq \prod_{i=1}^r p_i * N_i = 1 * 2 * 2 = 4$$

Steady-State Solutions for x : Three Qualitatively Distinct Cases



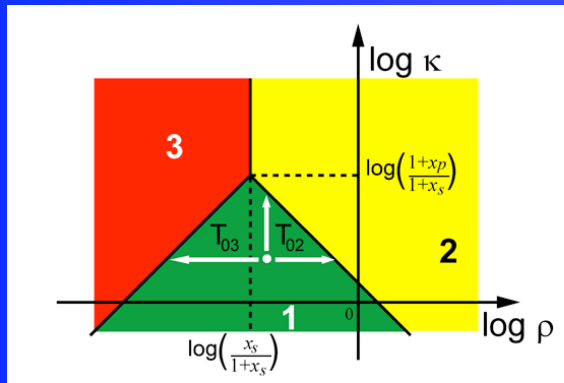
Piecewise Representation

$$\frac{dx}{d\tau} = \frac{x_s}{1 + x_s + x/\kappa} - \frac{\rho x}{1 + x + x_p}$$



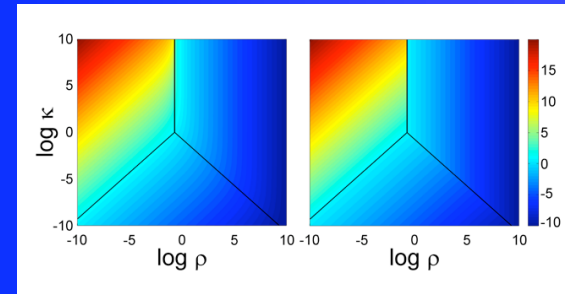
Solution 1	$\left[\frac{\kappa(1 + x_p)x_s}{\rho} \right]^{1/2}$	$x > \kappa(1 + x_s) \quad x < (1 + x_p)$
Solution 2	$\frac{x_s(1 + x_p)}{\rho(1 + x_s)}$	$x < \kappa(1 + x_s) \quad x < (1 + x_p)$
Solution 3	$\frac{\kappa x_s}{\rho}$	$x > \kappa(1 + x_s) \quad x > (1 + x_p)$
Solution 4	undefined	$x < \kappa(1 + x_s) \quad x > (1 + x_p)$

Design Space for a Pathway

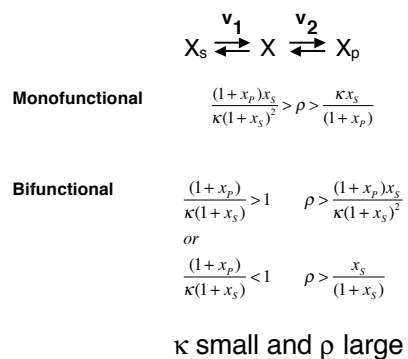


Intermediate Concentration

Michaelis-Menten Piecewise Power Law



Design Principle



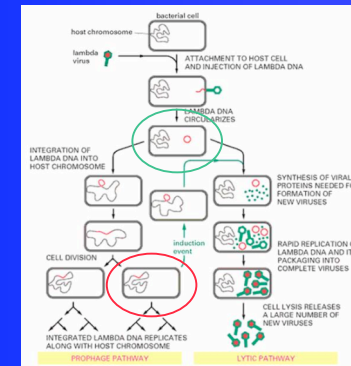
Implications

- 9-D *parameter* space compressed to 2-D *design* space
- Analysis within regimes is greatly simplified
- Phenotype of regime 1 most appropriate for a “mono-functional” intermediate
 - Minimal accumulation of intermediate avoids toxicity
 - Fast response time
 - Locally robust to changes in parameters
- Phenotype of regime 2 most appropriate for a “bi-functional” intermediate
 - Accumulation of intermediate facilitates functioning as a metabolic signal
 - Greater gain in flux when responding to input signals
- Phenotype of regime 3 has no appropriate function
- *Global tolerance* precisely defined as the parameter change necessary to cross the nearest boundary

Outline

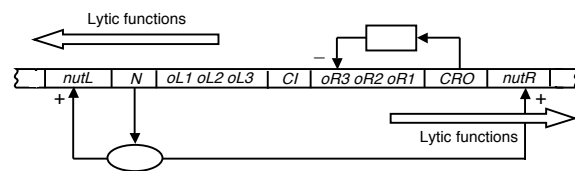
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Phage Lambda Life Cycle

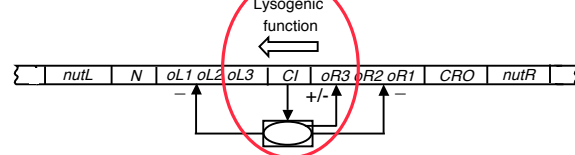


Genetic Regulatory Circuits

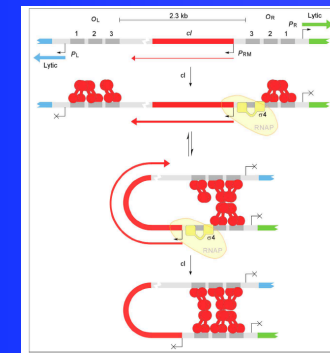
Lytic growth



Lysogenic growth



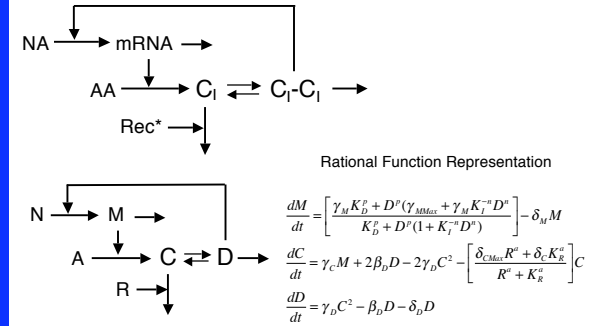
Molecular Interactions in the Core *cI* Circuit



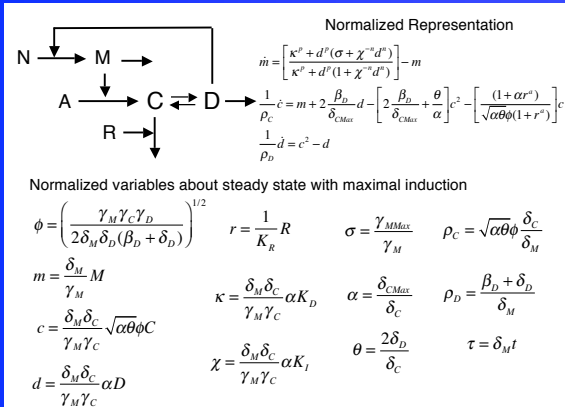
Dodd, et al., *Current Opinion in Genetics & Development* 15: 145 (2005).

Model Formulation

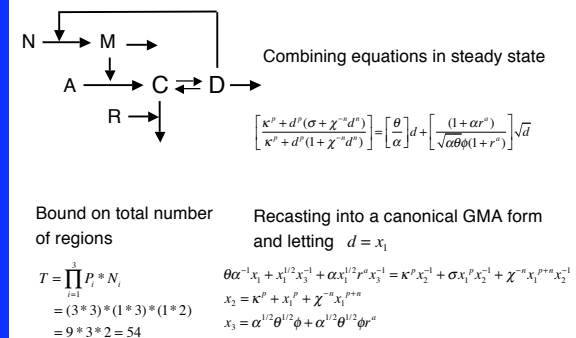
Model of the Lambda *cI* Gene Circuit



Normalized Equations



Recast Steady-State Equations



Construction of System Design Space

Example of a Valid Solution

Piecewise
equations

$$(\theta / \alpha)x_1 = \sigma x_1^p x_2^{-1} \quad x_2 = \chi^{-n} x_1^{p+n} \quad x_3 = \alpha^{1/2} \theta^{1/2} \phi$$

Solution

$$x_1 = d = \left[(\alpha / \theta) \sigma \chi^n \right]^{-\frac{1}{n+1}} \quad c = \left[(\alpha / \theta) \sigma \chi^n \right]^{-\frac{1}{2(n+1)}} \quad m = \left[(\theta / \alpha) \sigma^{1/n} \chi \right]^{-\frac{n}{n+1}}$$

Conditions

$$(\theta / \alpha)x_1 > (\alpha / \theta)^{1/2} \phi^{-1} x_1^{1/2} \quad (\theta / \alpha)x > (\alpha / \theta)^{1/2} \phi^{-1} x_1^{1/2} r^a$$

$$\sigma x_1^p > \kappa^p \quad \sigma x_1^p > \chi^{-n} x_1^{p+n}$$

$$\chi^{-n} x_1^{p+n} > \kappa^p \quad \chi^{-n} x_1^{p+n} > x_1^p$$

$$r < 1$$

Boundaries

$$\log \kappa < \frac{n+p}{p(n+1)} \log \sigma - \frac{n+p}{p(n+1)} \log(\theta / \alpha) + \frac{n(p-1)}{p(n+1)} \log \chi$$

$$\log r < \frac{3n+2}{2a(n+1)} \log(\theta / \alpha) + \frac{1}{2a(n+1)} \log \sigma + \frac{1}{a} \log \phi + \frac{n}{2a(n+1)} \log \chi$$

Example of an Invalid Solution

Piecewise
equations

$$x_1^{1/2} x_3^{-1} = \kappa^p x_2^{-1} \quad x_2 = \kappa^p \quad x_3 = \alpha^{1/2} \theta^{1/2} \phi r^a$$

Solution

$$x_1 = d = \alpha \theta \phi^2 r^{2a} \quad c = \alpha^{1/2} \theta^{1/2} \phi r^a \quad m = 1$$

Conditions

$$r < \alpha^{-1/a} < 1 \quad \leftarrow \alpha / (\theta^3 \phi^2 r^{2a})$$

$$\kappa > \sigma^{1/p} x_1 \quad \leftarrow \kappa > \chi^{-n/p} x_1^{(p+n)/p}$$

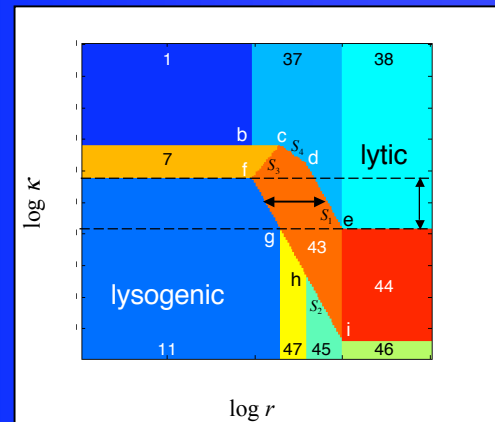
$$\kappa > x_1 \quad \leftarrow \kappa > \chi^{-n/p} x_1^{(p+n)/p}$$

$$r > 1$$

Boundaries

Inconsistent

Design Space



Landmarks in Design Space I

Intersections

$$b = \frac{1}{a} \log(\theta / \alpha) + \frac{1}{a} \log \phi, \frac{n+p}{p(n+1)} \log \sigma - \frac{n+p}{p(n+1)} \log(\theta / \alpha) + \frac{n(p-1)}{p(n+1)} \log \chi$$

$$c = \frac{3n+2}{2a(n+1)} \log(\theta / \alpha) + \frac{1}{2a(n+1)} \log \sigma + \frac{1}{a} \log \phi + \frac{n}{2a(n+1)} \log \chi, \\ \frac{n+p}{p(n+1)} \log \sigma - \frac{n+p}{p(n+1)} \log(\theta / \alpha) + \frac{n(p-1)}{p(n+1)} \log \chi$$

$$d = \frac{1}{2a} \log(\theta / \alpha) + \frac{1}{a} \log \sigma + \frac{1}{a} \log \phi - \frac{1}{2a} \log \chi, \log \chi$$

$$e = 0, 2 \log \sigma + 2 \log \phi + \log(\theta / \alpha)$$

Landmarks in Design Space II

Intersections

$$f = \frac{1}{a} \log(\theta / \alpha) + \frac{1}{a} \log \phi, \frac{1}{p} \log \sigma - \log(\theta / \alpha)$$

$$g = \frac{3n+2}{2a(n+1)} \log(\theta / \alpha) + \frac{1}{2a(n+1)} \log \sigma + \frac{1}{a} \log \phi + \frac{n}{2a(n+1)} \log \chi, \\ \frac{n+1-p}{p(n+1)} \log \sigma - \frac{2n+1}{(n+1)} \log(\theta / \alpha) - \frac{n}{(n+1)} \log \chi$$

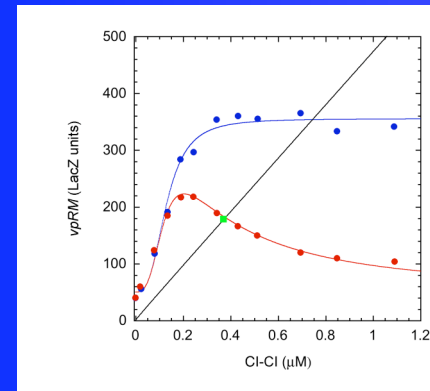
$$h = \frac{1}{2a} \log(\theta / \alpha) + \frac{1}{a} \log \sigma + \frac{1}{a} \log \phi - \frac{1}{2a} \log \chi, \log \chi - \frac{2p-1}{p} \log \sigma$$

$$i = 0, \frac{1}{p} \log \sigma + \log(\theta / \alpha) + 2 \log$$

$$\text{Slopes} \quad s_1 = s_2 = -2a \quad s_3 = \frac{2a(p-1)}{p} \quad s_4 = -\frac{2a(p+n)}{p(2n+1)}$$

Location in System Design Space

Rate of Transcription from P_{RM}



Dodd, et al. *Genes Dev.* 15: 3013 (2001).

Parameters Values From Experimental Data

- Fitting model to data without inhibition
 - Capacity for regulation by CI $\sigma=7.1$
 - Normalized K_{in} for activation $\kappa=130$
 - Hill number for activation $p=3$
- Fitting model to data with inhibition
 - Normalized K_i for repression $\chi=230$
 - Hill number for repression $n=1.5$
- Fitting model to the normal operating point in lysogeny
 - Capacity for regulation by RecA* $\alpha=215$
 - Parameter characterizing dimerization of CI $\phi=10$

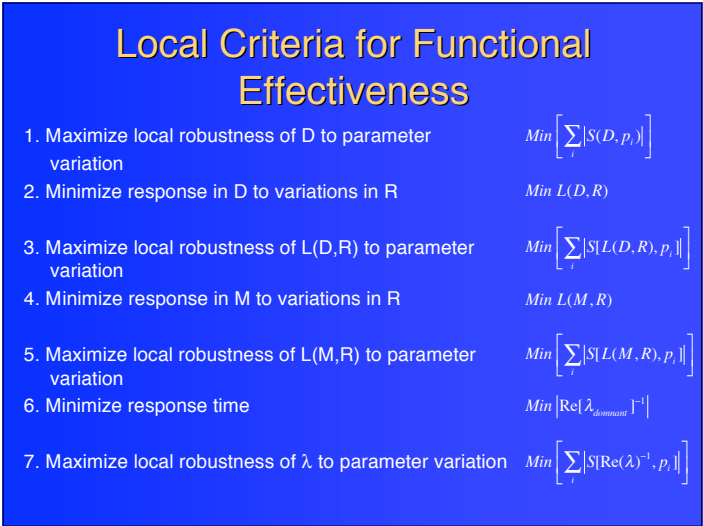
- # Evaluation of Local Behavior

Design Space

The diagram illustrates the design space for a system, with the y-axis representing $\log \kappa$ (ranging from 0 to 4) and the x-axis representing $\log r$ (ranging from -3 to 1). The space is divided into several regions, each associated with a specific design parameter or state:

- Region 1:** Blue, top-left.
- Region 7:** Orange, top-middle.
- Region 37:** Light blue, top-right.
- Region 38:** Cyan, top-far-right.
- Region 11:** Blue, bottom-left.
- Region 43:** Yellow, bottom-middle.
- Region 44:** Red, bottom-right.
- Region 45:** Orange, bottom-middle-right.
- Region 46:** Green, bottom-far-right.
- Region 47:** Yellow, bottom-middle-left.
- Region 48:** Light green, bottom-far-left.

A central orange region is labeled **lytic**, and a blue region is labeled **lysogenic**. A horizontal dashed line is drawn at $\log \kappa \approx 2.3$, and a vertical dashed line is drawn at $\log r \approx -0.5$. A double-headed arrow indicates a range of $\log r$ values around -0.5, and another double-headed arrow indicates a range of $\log \kappa$ values around 2.3.



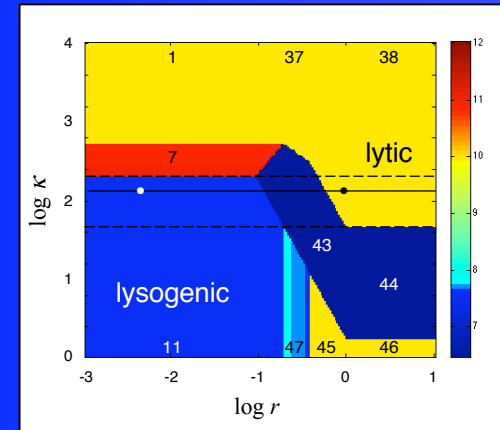
1. Maximize local robustness of D to parameter variation	$\text{Min} \left[\sum_i S(D, p_i) \right]$
2. Minimize response in D to variations in R	$\text{Min } L(D, R)$
3. Maximize local robustness of L(D,R) to parameter variation	$\text{Min} \left[\sum_i S[L(D, R), p_i] \right]$
4. Minimize response in M to variations in R	$\text{Min } L(M, R)$
5. Maximize local robustness of L(M,R) to parameter variation	$\text{Min} \left[\sum_i S[L(M, R), p_i] \right]$
6. Minimize response time	$\text{Min} \text{Re}[\lambda_{\text{dominant}}]^{-1} $
7. Maximize local robustness of λ to parameter variation	$\text{Min} \left[\sum_i S[\text{Re}(\lambda)^{-1}, p_i] \right]$

Local Robustness in Each Phenotypic Region

Region	Criteria					
	L1	L2	L3	L4	L5	L6
Lysogenic regions (stable steady states)						
11	0.161±0.209*	0.222±0.282	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
47	0.209±0.248	0.293±0.267	0.500	0.117±0.301	0.750	0.088±0.282
45	0.862±0.878	0.133±0.340	2.000	0.067±0.249	0.000	0.000
46	0.667±0.863	0.133±0.340	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Hysteretic regions (unstable steady states)						
7	0.277±0.410	0.474±0.657	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
43	0.323±0.325	0.555±0.497	0.400	0.147±0.376	1.200	0.077±0.276
44	0.230±0.308	0.381±0.433	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Lytic regions (stable steady states)						
1	0.267±0.442	0.133±0.340	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
37	0.862±0.878	0.133±0.340	2.000	0.067±0.249	0.000	0.000
38	0.667±0.863	0.133±0.340	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

* Mean ± standard deviation

Local Response Time, $\tau_{1/2}$ (min)



Evaluation of Global Behavior

Global Criteria for Functional Effectiveness

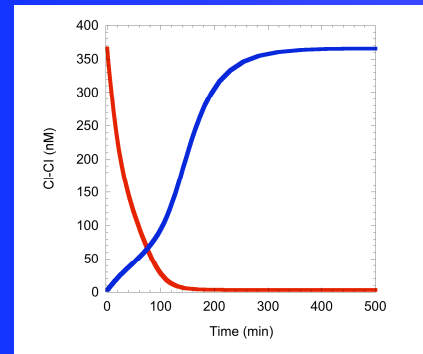
1. Maximize switching across the hysteretic region $Max \Delta_s = \alpha^2 / [\theta^2 \phi^2 \sigma^{(2p-1)/p}]$
2. Maximize robustness of this operation $Max \left[\sum_i |S(\Delta_s, p_i)| \right]^{-1}$
3. Maximize hysteretic buffer $Max \Delta_H = \sigma^{(2p-1)/(2pn)}$
4. Maximize robustness of buffer $Max \left[\sum_i |S(\Delta_H, p_i)| \right]^{-1}$
5. Maximize switching speed $Max \tau_s^{-1}$
6. Maximize Robustness of switching speed $Max \left[\sum_i |S(\tau_s, p_i)| \right]^{-1}$
7. Maximize global tolerances in best phenotypic region $Max [T_{low}, T_{high}]$

Global Tolerances for the Lysogenic Phenotype

mRNA		Protein	
Parameter	Tolerance	Parameter	Tolerance
γ_M	$[\infty, 4.2]^*$	δ_C	$[\infty, 4.2]$
γ_{Mmax}	$[2.4, 1.7]$	δ_{Cmax}	$[1.6, 38]$
K_D	$[2.8, 4.1]$	K_R	$[38, \infty]$
K_I	$[11, 2.4]$	R	$[\infty, 38]$
p	$[\infty, \infty]$	a	$[4.8, \infty]$
n	$[\infty, \infty]$	γ_C	$[2.4, 1.7]$
δ_M	$[1.7, 2.4]$	γ_D	$[\infty, 2.8]$
δ_D	$[11, 2.1]$	β_D	$[2.8, 1500]$

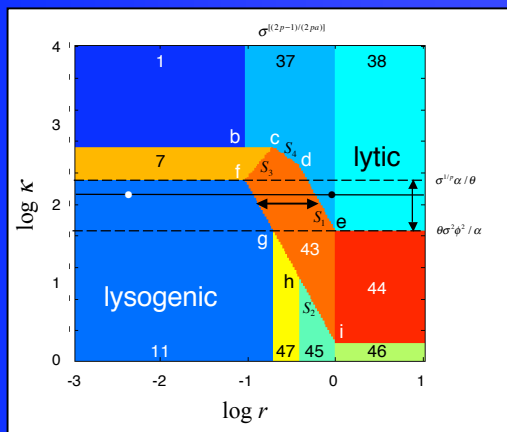
* [fold decrease, fold increase]

Switching Times to Turn ON (blue) and Turn OFF (red) the *cI* Gene Circuit



$5 \times \tau_{1/2}$

Design Space



Additional Influences on the Core *cI* Circuit

- Effects promoting induction (Atsumi & Little, 2006)
 - CRO is unnecessary for induction (Svenningsen, et al., 2005).
 - But it does lower the maximal rate of *cI* transcription γ_{Mmax} , which reduces the threshold level of RecA* needed for induction
- Effects promoting lysogeny (Kourilsky & Knapp, 1974)
 - Multiplicity of infection leads to elevated CII levels (Kobiler, et al., 2005)
 - This increases the maximal rate of *cI* transcription γ_{Mmax}
 - Thus, raising the boundary between the lytic and lysogenic regions
 - Slower growth rates lead to an increase in CII
 - This is a result of lowering the rate constant for dilution δ_C
 - Again, expanding the lysogenic regions at the expense of the lytic regions

Implications

- 15-D *parameter* space compressed to 2-D *design* space
- Analysis within regimes is greatly simplified
- Phenotypes representing the stable steady state with induction
- Phenotypes representing multiple steady states with an hysteretic response
- Phenotypes representing less appropriate steady states for the lysogenic state
- Phenotypes representing most appropriate steady state for the lysogen
 - Locally robust to parameter changes
 - Fast response times
 - Large global tolerance to parameter changes
 - Fast switching times for induction and integration
- *Qualitative* prediction of hysteretic region
- Suggestions for design principles
 - ΔS
 - ΔH
 - Cleavage only of the monomer
 - Induction much faster than integration

Summary

- Motivated by results from successful hand-crafted design spaces
- Proposal for a generic method of constructing design space
 - Design space as a dimensional compression of parameter space
 - Phenotypes associated with regions of design space
 - Bound on the number of qualitatively distinct phenotypes
 - Simple characterization of local behavior within regions
 - Fitness comparisons among phenotypes
 - Precisely defined boundaries between regions
 - Novel definition of **global tolerance** to parameter change
 - Facilitates identification of **system design principles**
- Foundation in algebraic geometry
 - All boundaries are straight lines in log space
 - Intercepts are linear in the logarithms of the rate constants
 - Slopes and intercepts are rational functions of the kinetic orders

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